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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-35. (Cancelled)

36. (Currently amended) A communications method, comprising:

establishing a presence-based communications session between a sender and a recipient; and

during the presence-based communications session between the sender and the recipient:

establishing a video communications session between the sender and the recipient;

generating a video instant message on behalf of the sender;

storing the video instant message on behalf of the sender;

after generation of the video instant message is complete, receiving an indication that triggers to trigger sending of the video instant message to the recipient; and

in response to receiving the indication that triggers to trigger sending of the video instant message to the recipient, initiating a transfer of the video instant message to the recipient using the video communications session.

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 36 wherein storing the video instant message comprises storing the video instant message in a location that is immutable by the sender.

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38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 36 further comprising during the presence-based communications session between the sender and the recipient:

receiving a text instant message intended for the recipient from the sender; and

delivering the text instant message to the recipient.

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 36 further comprising accessing an indication of capabilities of the recipient.

40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 39 wherein accessing an indication of capabilities of the recipient comprises accessing an indication of hardware associated with the recipient.

41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 39 wherein accessing an indication of capabilities of the recipient comprises accessing an indication of software associated with the recipient.

42. (Previously presented) The method of claim 39 further comprising displaying a user interface according to the capabilities of the recipient.

43. (Cancelled)

44. (Previously presented) The method of claim 36 further comprising establishing a generic signaling interface channel, a control channel, and a video channel between the sender and the recipient.

45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44 wherein the control channel comprises a TCP/IP socket.

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46. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44 wherein the video channel comprises a UDP channel.

47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44 wherein the video channel comprises a TCP channel.

48. (Previously presented) A communications method, comprising:

establishing a presence-based communications session between a sender and a recipient; and

during the presence-based communications session between the sender and the recipient:

establishing a video communications session between the sender and the recipient;

receiving, on behalf of the recipient, a completed video instant message sent by the sender using the video communications session;

storing the video instant message on behalf of the recipient;

accessing the stored video instant message; and

enabling presentation of the video instant message to the recipient.

49. (Previously presented) The method of claim 48 wherein storing the video instant message comprises storing the video instant message in a location that is immutable by the recipient.

50. (Previously presented) The method of claim 48 further comprising during the presence-based communications session between the sender and the recipient:

receiving a text instant message intended for the recipient from the sender; and

enabling presentation of the text instant message to the recipient.

51. (Cancelled)

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52. (Previously presented) The method of claim 48 further comprising establishing a generic signaling interface channel, a control channel, and a video channel between the sender and the recipient.

53. (Previously presented) The method of claim 52 wherein the control channel comprises a TCP/IP socket.

54. (Previously presented) The method of claim 52 wherein the video channel comprises a UDP channel.

55. (Previously presented) The method of claim 52 wherein the video channel comprises a TCP channel.

56. (Currently amended) A computer program, stored on a computer readable medium, comprising instructions for:

establishing a presence-based communications session between a sender and a recipient; and

during the presence-based communications session between the sender and the recipient:

establishing a video communications session between the sender and the recipient;

generating a video instant message on behalf of the sender;

storing the video instant message on behalf of the sender; and

after generation of the video instant message is complete, receiving an indication that triggers to trigger sending of the video instant message to the recipient; and

in response to receiving the indication that triggers to trigger sending of the video instant message to the recipient, initiating a transfer of the video instant message to the recipient using the video communications session.

57. (Previously presented) The computer program of claim 56 wherein the instructions for storing the video instant message comprise instructions for storing the video instant message in a location that is immutable by the sender.

58. (Previously presented) The computer program of claim 56 further comprising instructions for:

receiving a text instant message intended for the recipient from the sender during the presence-based communications session between the sender and the recipient; and

delivering the text instant message to the recipient during the presence-based communications session between the sender and the recipient.

59. (Previously presented) The computer program of claim 56 further comprising instructions for accessing an indication of capabilities of the recipient.

60. (Previously presented) The computer program of claim 59 wherein the instructions for accessing an indication of capabilities of the recipient comprise instructions for accessing an indication of hardware associated with the recipient.

61. (Previously presented) The computer program of claim 59 wherein the instructions for accessing an indication of capabilities of the recipient comprise instructions for accessing an indication of software associated with the recipient.

62. (Previously presented): The computer program of claim 59 further comprising instructions for displaying a user interface according to the capabilities of the recipient.

63. (Cancelled)

64. (Previously presented) A computer program, stored on a computer readable medium, comprising instructions for:

establishing a presence-based communications session between a sender and a recipient; and

during the presence-based communications session between the sender and the recipient:

establishing a video communications session between the sender and the recipient;

receiving, on behalf of the recipient, a completed video instant message sent by the sender using the video communications session;

storing the video instant message on behalf of the recipient;

accessing the stored video instant message; and

enabling presentation of the video instant message to the recipient.

65. (Previously presented) The computer program of claim 64 wherein the instructions for storing the video instant message comprise instructions for storing the video instant message in a location that is immutable by the recipient.

66. (Previously presented) The computer program of claim 64 further comprising instructions for:

receiving a text instant message intended for the recipient from the sender during the presence-based communications session between the sender and the recipient; and

enabling presentation of the text instant message to the recipient during the presence-based communications session between the sender and the recipient.

67. (Cancelled)

68. (Currently amended) A system comprising:

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means for establishing a presence-based communications session between a sender and a recipient;

means for establishing, during the presence-based communications session, a video communications session between the sender and the recipient;

means for generating, during the presence-based communications session, a video instant message on behalf of the sender;

means for storing, during the presence-based communications session, the video instant message on behalf of the sender;

means for receiving, during the instant messaging communications session and after generation of the video instant message is complete, an indication ~~that triggers~~ to trigger sending of the video instant message to the recipient; and

means for initiating a transfer of the video instant message to the recipient using the video communications session in response to receiving the indication ~~that triggers~~ to trigger sending of the vide instant message to the recipient.

69. (Previously presented) A system comprising:

means for establishing a presence-based communications session between a sender and a recipient through an instant messaging host;

means for establishing a video communication session between the sender and the recipient;

means for receiving, during the presence-based communications session, a completed video instant message sent by the sender using the video communications session;

means for storing, during the presence-based communications session, the video instant message on behalf of the recipient;

means for accessing, during the presence-based communications session, the stored video instant message; and

means for enabling presentation of the video instant message to the recipient during the presence-based communications session.

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70. (Previously presented) The method of claim 36, wherein generating the video instant message on behalf of the sender comprises generating the video instant message with a client device comprising a processor, a controller and a storage medium.

71. (Previously presented) The method of claim 70, wherein the client device comprises a set-top box.

72. (Previously presented) The method of claim 48, wherein receiving a completed video instant message sent by the sender using the video communications session comprises receiving the completed video instant message through a client device comprising a processor, a controller and a storage medium.

73. (Previously presented) The method of claim 72, wherein the client device comprises a set-top box.

74. (Previously presented) The system of claim 68, wherein the means for generating the video instant message comprises a client device comprising a processor, a controller and a storage medium.

75. (Previously presented) The system of claim 74, wherein the client device comprises a set-top box.

76. (Previously presented) The system of claim 69, wherein the means for receiving the completed video instant message comprises a client device comprising a processor, a controller and a storage medium.

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77. (Previously presented) The system of claim 74, wherein the client device comprises a set-top box.

78. (Previously presented) The method of claim 36 wherein establishing a presence-based communications session between a sender and a recipient comprises establishing an instant messaging communications session between a sender and a recipient.

79. (Currently amended) The method of claim 36 wherein the presence-based communications session requires that both the sender and the recipient are accessing a communications infrastructure over which the presence-based communications session is established at the same time such that establishing the presence-based communications session between the sender and the recipient comprises establishing the presence-based communications session between the sender and the recipient over the communications infrastructure only when the sender and the recipient are both accessing the communications infrastructure at the same time.

80. (Previously presented) The method of claim 36 wherein establishing a presence-based communications session between a sender and a recipient comprises:

establishing a persistent connection between the sender and the recipient; and

establishing the communications session over the persistent connection between the sender and the recipient.

81. (Previously presented) The method of claim 36 wherein establishing a video communications session between the sender and the recipient is conditioned upon having previously established the presence-based communications session between the sender and the recipient.

82. (Previously presented) A communications method, comprising:

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establishing a presence-based communications session between a sender and a recipient;

during the presence-based communications session, receiving, from the sender, a request to establish a video communications session between the sender and the recipient that is concurrent with the presence-based communications session;

in response to receiving the request to establish a video communications session between the sender and the recipient, establishing a video communications session between the sender and the recipient that is concurrent with the presence-based communications session; and

during the concurrent presence-based and video communications sessions between the sender and the recipient:

    generating a video instant message on behalf of the sender;

    receiving an instruction from the sender to send the video instant message to the recipient after generation of the video instant message is complete; and

    in response to receiving the instruction to send the video instant message to the recipient, initiating a transfer of the video instant message to the recipient using the video communications session.

83. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[79]] 82 wherein initiating a transfer of the video instant message using the video communications session comprises:

enabling presentation, to the recipient, of a hyperlink that is selectable by the recipient to trigger a transfer of the video instant message to the recipient;

receiving an indication of a selection of the hyperlink by the recipient; and

using the video communications session to transfer the video instant message to the recipient in response to receiving the indication of the selection of the hyperlink by the recipient.

84. (Previously presented) The method of claim 83 wherein:

the presence-based communication session comprises a text instant messaging communications session; and

initiating a transfer of the video instant message to the recipient using the video

communications session comprises:

enabling presentation, to the recipient, of a hyperlink in a text instant messaging

display window, the hyperlink being selectable by the recipient to trigger a transfer of the

video instant message to the recipient;

receiving an indication of a selection of the hyperlink by the recipient; and

using the video communications session between the sender and the recipient to

transfer the video instant message to the recipient in response to receiving the indication

of the selection of the hyperlink by the recipient.

85. (Previously presented) A method comprising:

initiating an instant messaging session between a sender and a recipient;

in response to initiating the instant messaging session between the sender and the

recipient, enabling display, to the sender, of an instant messaging graphical user interface

associated with the initiated instant messaging session, the instant messaging graphical user

interface being configured to enable the sender to compose and send text instant messages to the

recipient;

in response to initiating the text instant messaging session between the sender and the

recipient, determining if the recipient is capable of participating in video instant messaging; and

based on a determination that the recipient is capable of participating in video instant

messaging, enabling the graphical user interface associated with the instant messaging session to

reflect that the recipient is capable of participating in video instant messaging.

86. (Previously presented) The method of claim 85 wherein enabling the graphical user

interface associated with the instant messaging session to reflect that the recipient is capable of

participating in video instant messaging comprises enabling display of an icon that indicates that

the recipient is capable of participating in video instant messaging.

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87. (Previously presented) The method of claim 86 wherein:

the icon is selectable to invoke a video instant messaging communications session between the sender and the recipient; and

the method further comprises:

receiving an indication of a selection of the icon by the sender; and

establishing a video instant messaging communications session between the sender and the recipient in response to receiving the indication of the selection of the icon by the sender.

88. (New) The method of claim 82 wherein establishing a presence-based communications session between a sender and a recipient comprises establishing a text instant messaging session between the sender and the recipient.

89. (New) The method of claim 88

wherein establishing a text instant messaging session between the sender and the recipient includes:

displaying, to the sender, a list of potential text instant message participants, the list of potential text instant message participants including the recipient,

receiving, from the sender, a selection of the recipient from the list of potential text instant message participants,

displaying, to the sender, a text instant messaging display window that is configured to enable the sender to compose and send text instant messages to the recipient and to display text instant messages received from the recipient and that includes a control that is configured to initiate a video communications session between the sender and the recipient,

receiving, in the text instant messaging display window, a text instant message from the sender intended for the recipient,

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receiving an instruction from the sender to send the text instant message to the recipient, and

in response to receiving the instruction from the sender to send the text instant message to the recipient, initiating a transfer of the text instant message to the recipient using the text instant messaging communications session;

wherein receiving, from the sender, a request to establish a video communications session between the sender and the recipient that is concurrent with the presence-based communications session includes receiving an indication of a selection of the control in the text instant messaging display window that is configured to initiate a video communications session between the sender and the recipient; and

wherein establishing a video communications session between the sender and the recipient that is concurrent with the presence-based communications session includes:

establishing the video communications session between the sender and the recipient in response to receiving the indication of the selection of the control in the text instant messaging display window that is configured to initiate a video communications session between the sender and the recipient, and

displaying, to the sender, a video messaging display window.